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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy M. Keller

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL FEDERAL DOLLARS TO SUPPORT
INDIVIDUAL NEW MEXICANS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp program, is a program of the United States department of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the supplemental nutrition assistance program is one hundred percent federally funded; and

WHEREAS, the supplemental nutrition assistance program brings federal dollars into New Mexico communities in the form of benefits that are redeemed by participants of the program at local stores; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the supplemental nutrition assistance program ripple throughout the economies of a community, the state and the nation by helping farmers,

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1 retailers and other businesses as well as families; and

2 WHEREAS, supplemental nutrition assistance program
3 expenditures can help stabilize the economy by stimulating
4 economic activity during a recession; and

5 WHEREAS, in November 2008 alone, more than twenty-eight
6 million federal dollars (\$28,000,000) in the form of benefits
7 from the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program
8 supported the New Mexico economy; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico could increase the amount of benefits
10 each participant receives, thereby bringing additional federal
11 money into the state by changing the formula for calculating
12 income from multiplying weekly income by a factor of four and
13 three-tenths to multiplying weekly income by a factor of four;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture
16 regulations permit states to use their own public assistance
17 conversion standards; hence, the human services department has
18 the flexibility it needs to use a factor of four rather than
19 the four and three-tenths factor calculation formula;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be requested
22 to change the formula for calculating income when devising
23 household supplemental nutrition assistance and cash assistance
24 program budgets from a four and three-tenths factor per week
25 each month to a factor of four per week each month; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
2 report to the interim legislative health and human services
3 committee by November 30, 2009 whether it has made the
4 suggested change in the supplemental nutrition assistance
5 program budgeting policy and, if so, the amount of additional
6 federal dollars generated by the change; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services
9 and the chair of the interim legislative health and human
10 services committee.